



Office of the
Healthcare
Advocate
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony of Victoria Veltri
State Healthcare Advocate
Before the Public Health Committee
In Support of SB 36
February 28, 2014**

Good afternoon, Representative Johnson, Senator Gerratana, Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan, and members of the Public Health Committee. For the record, I am Vicki Veltri, State Healthcare Advocate with the Office Healthcare Advocate ("OHA"). OHA is an independent state agency with a three-fold mission: assuring managed care consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare; educating consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health insurance plans; and, informing you of problems consumers are facing in accessing care and proposing solutions to those problems.

Senate Bill 36, An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations to Improve Access to Health Care, addresses a very timely issue. With more than 125,000 new entrants into Connecticut's insurance marketplace and a greater understanding of the critical importance of early access to preventative screening and care, developing workforce capacity remains an important element in effective health reform efforts. SB 36 begins to address this issue by capitalizing on our state's existing clinical expertise and enabling Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) to diagnose and treat to the full extent of their training and with full independence..

This expansion enhances medical doctor's ability to focus on more complex patients, while maximizing access to effective, quality and compassionate primary care for consumers with more routine healthcare needs. In addition, SB 36 can help to reduce healthcare expenditures by leveraging the expertise consistent with each provider's training and experience, create more equity in the quality of healthcare delivery.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to deliver OHA's testimony today. If you have any questions concerning my testimony, please feel free to contact me at victoria.veltri@ct.gov.